

Istook Says Ruling is Common Sense

Supreme Court Upholds Internet Filtering Bill

Washington, DC -- Today, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as constitutional.

Istook, the principal author of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), expressed his satisfaction with the ruling. **"It's only common sense that we shouldn't use taxpayers' money to subsidize children's access to Internet pornography,"** said Istook. **"This law doesn't censor anything, but it does refuse to subsidize pornography that's aimed at kids."**

CIPA requires that public libraries install filters to block obscenity on computers paid for with federal funds to which children have access. CIPA became law in December 2000, when Istook successfully attached it as a rider on an appropriations bill. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the American Library Association (ALA) filed suit against the law in March 2001 claiming that it would censor constitutionally-protected speech. In May 2002, a three-judge Philadelphia appellate court struck down the law. In March 2003, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case; and today, they declared the law to be constitutional.

"I'm pleased, but not surprised that the Supreme Court has upheld these common-sense restrictions on how federal taxpayer dollars are spent," said Istook. **"If they had failed to uphold the constitutionality of the law, and instead maintained that libraries have a responsibility to provide access to everything, public libraries would have essentially become taxpayer-funded adult bookstores. It's sad that the ACLU and the liberal leadership of the ALA seem to be more concerned with helping the pornographers than with helping our children."**

Istook was formerly the chairman of the Metropolitan Library System Board in Oklahoma City.